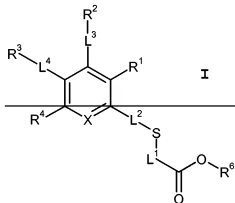


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 34 formula I, or a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~:



wherein

X is CH;

R<sup>4</sup> is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>; or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>; or -OR, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub> or -SR wherein R is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>;

$R^2$  is H,  $CF_3$ ; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$ -aryl,  $C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_{5-7}$ -heterocyclyl or together with  $R^3$ -an optionally substituted  $C_{3-4}$ -alkylene group wherein  $L^3$ - and  $L^4$ - are single bonds thus forming a  $C_{5-6}$ -ring fused with the aromatic ring to which  $L^3$ - and  $L^4$ - are attached;

$R^3$  is H; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$ -aryl,  $C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_{5-7}$ -heterocyclyl or together with  $R^2$ -an optionally substituted  $C_{3-4}$ -alkylene group wherein  $L^3$ - and  $L^4$ - are single bonds thus forming a  $C_{5-6}$ -ring fused with the aromatic ring to which  $L^3$ - and  $L^4$ - are attached;

$R^4$  is H; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$ -aryl or  $C_{5-7}$ -heterocyclyl;

$R^6$  is selected from H or optionally substituted  $C_{1-7}$ -alkyl,  $C_{5-6}$ -aryl and  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene- $C_{5-6}$ -aryl;

$L^4$  is optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$ -arylene,  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene- $C_{5-6}$ -arylene or  $-L^5N(R^6)L^6-$ , or  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene substituted by either  $C_{1-7}$ -alkyl or  $C_{5-7}$ -aryl, wherein  $L^5$ - and  $L^6$ - are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene and  $C_{5-6}$ -arylene, and  $R^5$  is H or  $C_{1-4}$ -alkyl; and further wherein  $L^4$  may be unsubstituted  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene when X is N;

$L^2$  is a single bond; and

$L^3$ - and  $L^4$ - are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene,  $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}$ - and  $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$ , wherein  $L^9$ - and  $L^{10}$ - are

~~independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene,  $C_{5-6}$ -arylene,  $C_{1-4}$ -alkylene- $C_{5-6}$ -arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond.~~

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 37A method according to claim 1 wherein  $R^4$  is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.

3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 38A method according to claim 1 wherein  $R^5$  is H or  $C_{1-7}$ -alkyl.

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 39A method according to claim 1 wherein  $L^4$  is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene,  $-CH(Ph)-$ ,  $-CH_2$ -phenylene and  $-CH_2C(=O)NH$ -phenylene.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 39A method according to claim 1 wherein  $L^3$  is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond,  $-$

$L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}$ —and— $L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}$ —, wherein  $L^9$  and  $L^{10}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $C_{5-6}$  arylene,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

7. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 44. A method according to claim 6 wherein  $L^3$  is a single bond.

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 45. A method according to claim 1 wherein  $L^4$  is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, — $L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}$ —and— $L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}$ —, wherein  $L^9$  and  $L^{10}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $C_{5-6}$  arylene,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 46. A method according to claim 8 wherein  $L^4$  is selected from the group consisting of — $CH_2N(OH)C(=O)$ —, phenylene- $CH_2N(OH)C(=O)$ —, phenylene-NHN(OH)C(=O)— and — $CH_2C(=O)N(OH)$ —.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 47A-method according to claim 1 wherein one of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are H.

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 48A-method according to claim 1 wherein two of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are H.

Claims 13-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Canceled)

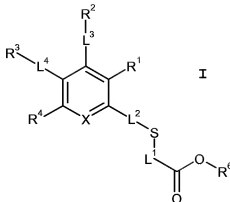
Claims 22-29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 34 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is CH;

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are [[is]] H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $NH_2$ ; or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $NH_2$ ; or OR, NHR,  $NR_2$  or SR wherein R is  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $NH_2$ ;

$R^2$  is H,  $CF_3$ ; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$  aryl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{5-7}$  heterocyclyl or together with  $R^3$  an optionally substituted  $C_{3-4}$  alkylene group wherein  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  are single bonds thus forming a  $C_{5-6}$  ring fused with the aromatic ring to which  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  are attached;

$R^3$  is [[H; or]] optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$  aryl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl, or  $C_{5-7}$  heterocyclyl or together with  $R^2$  an optionally substituted  $C_{3-4}$  alkylene group wherein  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  are single bonds thus forming a  $C_{5-6}$  ring fused with the aromatic ring to which  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  are attached;

$R^4$  is H; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$ -aryl or  $C_{5-7}$  heterocyclyl;

$R^6$  is selected from H or optionally substituted  $C_{1-7}$  alkyl,  $C_{5-6}$  aryl and  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  aryl;

$L^1$  is optionally substituted  $[[C_{1-4}$  alkylene,]]  $C_{5-6}$  arylene,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  arylene or  $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$ , or  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene substituted by either  $C_{1-7}$  alkyl or  $C_{5-7}$  aryl, wherein  $L^5$  and  $L^6$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene and  $C_{5-6}$  arylene, and  $R^5$  is H or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$L^2$  is a single bond; and

$L^3$  is a single bond; and

$L^4$  [[are]] is independently selected from ~~a single bond, optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,~~  $-L^9N(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$  and  $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$ , wherein  $L^9$  and  $L^{10}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $C_{5-6}$  arylene,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and

~~wherein the compound contains at least one  $-C(=O)N(OH)-$  group.~~

Claims 35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein  $L^4$  is a  $L^9-C(=O)N(OH)-$  group.

38. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein  $L^9$  is selected from  $C_{1-4}$

alkylene and C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene.

39. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L<sup>9</sup> is methylene or phenylene.

Claim 40. (Canceled)

Claims 41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl.

45. (Original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl.

46. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H or C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl.

47. (Original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl.

48. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L<sup>1</sup> is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-phenylene- or -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

Claim 49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Canceled)